

THE ADVOCATE

July 2009

Why I Come To Work

by Jonathan Salters, Youth Development Representative

I'm **Jonathan Salters**. I enjoy coming to work every day as a Youth Development Representative at the **New Beginnings Youth Development Center**. I've been with the department for the past four years, helping to prepare youth to return to their communities. Prior to the **Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)**, I monitored youth at the **Lamont Shelter House** run by the **Bureau of Rehabilitation**. That experience gave me a better idea of how youth coped differently in the settings of group homes and shelters. I also worked with youth as a Youth Counselor at the **Harambee House**, and as a Substance Abuse Counselor in a **Union Baptist Temple Church** program. It is through these job experiences that I found my passion in making a difference in the lives of youth I work with.

[To hear more - view video*]



Guns to Roses at the Wilson Building

by Matt Barinholtz, Director of Career Institutes, Maya Angelou Academy, and John Mein, Recreation and Special Projects Coordinator, DYRS



Over the course of a four-day workshop in June, a small team of youth used their imaginations and traditional blacksmithing, welding, and cutting skills to transform objects of violence into works of functional beauty and a symbol of change. The youth, **Anthony, Larry, and Marquis**, gave presentations to the **Metropolitan Police Department**, the **DC Council**, and the public, on how the garden trellis was designed and fabricated at the **Maya Angelou Academy** in the **New Beginnings Youth Development Center**. It is made completely from recycled materials - illegal firearms taken off the streets by the Metropolitan Police Department and reclaimed steel from the old Oak Hill youth detention facility. This is a unique partnership between **DYRS, DCPD, ROOT and See Forever's Maya Angelou Academy**. It is scheduled to be permanently installed at New Beginnings in the late summer of 2009 and is temporarily installed for public viewing at the **Wilson Building**. Because of growing community interest in **Guns to Roses**, youth will continue to be selected to participate in projects scheduled for the late summer and fall of 2009 and into the coming year.

Playing a King's Game

by Beverly Dyson, Program Support Specialist

On June 27, 2009, DYRS youth participated in a chess tournament held at the **New Beginnings Youth Development Center**. A DC-based non-profit organization, **POP (Product of the Product)**, taught several DYRS youth how to play a game created for nobility. The young men learned the structure of playing chess and how it requires careful thought, patience, and planning with the help of **POP CEO, Andre Marr**, and **POP volunteers**. [Watch POP CEO talk about the event*]



Summer Youth Employment Program @ YSC

by Landra Anderson, SYEP Public Affairs Intern

This summer, several DC youth are located at the D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services' **Youth Services Center (YSC)** and the **450 H Street** offices. DYRS Youth at the **New Beginnings Youth Development Center** are also working this summer through the **Summer Youth Employment Program**. The SYEP employees at YSC work with DYRS administrative and culinary staff in various parts of the center. Click on the link to learn more about the SYEP employees at YSC and the activities they're involved in — [\[read SYEP blog*\]](#)

Old School vs. New School Basketball Game

by Bridget McLennon, Staff Assistant, and Cecilia Jones, Program Support Assistant

A friendly and competitive game of basketball brought DYRS staff and youth together at the **New Beginnings Youth Development Center**. **Gillian Myers**, Training Officer, hosted the half-time entertainment, and a youth won the three-point competition. The games will be held on the last Thursday of every month. Keep a lookout for special guest teams in future games!



Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services